

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Red Road Approach fosters the achievement of holistic balance within recovery. It was developed by fostering naturalistic wisdom of the Lakota Nation and traditional medicine as a pivotal underpinning in many programs that apply culturally-based substance use treatment, walking in balance, and living in recovery; and,

Whereas, Rick Thomas is the co-developer and founder of the Red Road Approach which has spanned over two and one-half decades and is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Service to the People at the 20th annual Red Road gathering at The University of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Rick continues to teach and facilitate the approach which is embraced within many cultures and nations as a standard for practitioners within substance use, mental health, addiction recovery, community action, suicide prevention and recovery, and substance use prevention; and,

Whereas, Rick embraces the spirituality of the journeys of all persons from all races and nations equally throughout his tenure within the helping hands and healing arts; and,

Whereas, Rick has achieved excellence as an educator among his Lakota people, across all cultures, within multiple corporate and structured settings, and has assisted many people including youth in battling drug addiction, violence, and suicide; and,

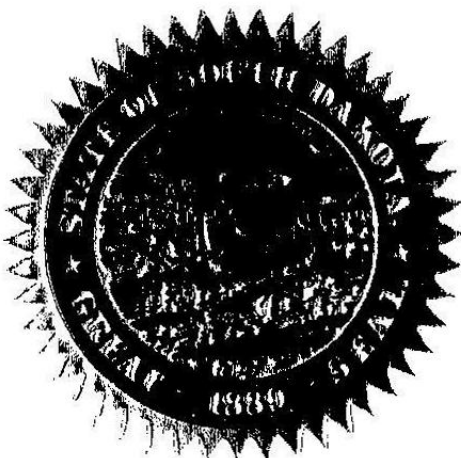
Whereas, Rick has made himself available to individuals, groups, families, tribes, and private and government organizations throughout the region and across South Dakota; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as governor to honor this outstanding South Dakotan on this special occasion:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2009, as

RICK THOMAS DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State